

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 23, 2018

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

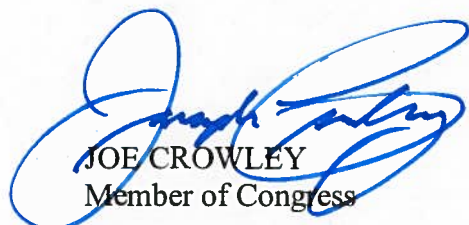
Today's meeting is the second time in two weeks that you decide to focus your comments and administration's efforts on MS-13, instead of the millions of hard-working immigrants in this country who are enriching their communities every single day. There is no question that gangs, like MS-13, are a danger in our communities. No one knows this better than the innocent immigrant communities that are terrorized by these gangs every day. However, your insistence on likening all immigrant communities to these street gangs is un-American. We invite you to join us in New York City for a roundtable to hear from immigrant communities, who are nothing like the criminals you label them to be. Perhaps they may convince you to start focusing your efforts on fixing our broken immigration system, instead of focusing on enforcement-only policies.

As you know, America has long been a nation of immigrants. Nothing sums that up better than the motto etched into the symbol of our city, the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Since our founding, immigrants from all countries have seen America as a place where they can enjoy the benefits of freedom and opportunity. Whether they are fleeing war, violence, persecution, or destitution, our great nation has always been a beacon for those seeking a better life for themselves and their families. What's more, we believe those who take the enormously daunting step of leaving their countries and communities to start their lives anew and rebuild from the bottom up possess a unique degree of fortitude and ingenuity that only lends itself to making our country better.

That is why we are concerned that you would choose to hold a discussion purportedly on the important issue of immigration without including the very people who have experienced first-hand how our immigration laws work on the ground and how our nation has allowed them to change their lives for the better. New York City is home to 3.3 million immigrants from more than 150 countries. While immigrants equal a little more than 13 percent of the U.S. population, they make up nearly 40 percent of New Yorkers. Perhaps if you sat down with representatives of immigrant communities in our city, you would learn that they are hard-working, law-abiding people. In fact, the unemployment rate among foreign-born individuals is nearly the same as the overall national unemployment rate. And, data consistently shows that immigrants do not commit crimes at higher rates than the U.S.-born population. In fact, according to the New York Times, "Analyses of census data from 1980 through 2010 show that among men ages 18 to 49, immigrants were one-half to one-fifth as likely to be incarcerated as those born in the United States." Immigrants have made our city, and cities around the country, safer and more prosperous.

America has always been - and will continue to be - a nation of immigrants. In order to implement fair and realistic policies regarding our immigration laws, you must meet face-to-face with those who actually represent immigrant communities. You must hear their stories and learn of their desire for nothing more than to achieve the American Dream. We are happy to facilitate this conversation right here in your hometown at a time and place of your choosing. We think that in such a meeting, you'll come to find these strong, courageous people have more in common with your own immigrant mother, rather than "animals."

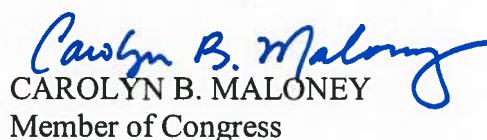
Sincerely,



JOE CROWLEY  
Member of Congress



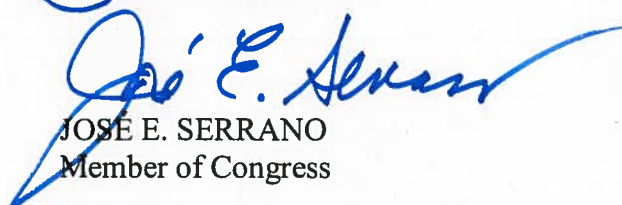
YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress



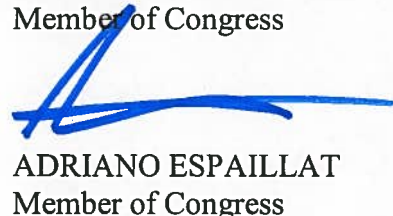
JOSE E. SERRANO  
Member of Congress



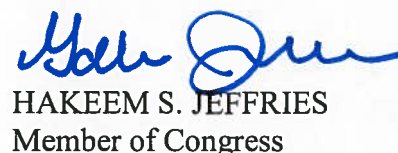
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ  
Member of Congress



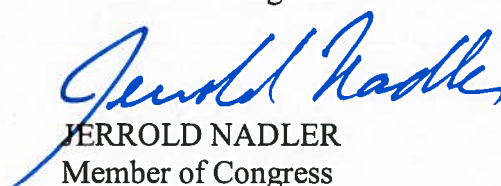
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress



HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES  
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress